ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

ALBERTA

AND

BRITISH COLUMBIA

LORD'S DAY ALLIANCE

1913-14



Secretary for Alberta and British Columbia: REV. CHARLES H. HUESTIS, M. A., Red Deer, Alberta.

General Secretary: REV. W. M. ROCHESTER, B. A., D. D., Toronto, Ontario.

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TREASURER:

L. J. Porter, Esq., Red Deer

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TREASURER:

John S. Bain, Esq., Victoria Block, Vancouver

Alberta and British Columbia Lord's Day Alliance

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY FOR 1913-1914

It is a matter of profound significance to the Canadian people engaged as they are in the task committed to them of developing a stron and enduring national life, that over and over as we turn the pages of th Scriptures we find the thought expressed that the observance of th Sabbath lies deep in the everlasting necessities of human nature and i one of the supreme conditions of national welfare.

We believe it to be the duty of the Canadian citizens to promot the fullest recognition of the Divine purpose in the Sabbath, to conserv this priceless heritage for all men, to assist in securing the proper an conscientious observance of the day in the interests of those high attain ments in religion and morals upon which the stability of politic institutions and national well-being depend, and to contend earnestl against adverse influences which assert themselves and which threate the integrity of the Sabbath.

For these reasons it is important that the people should know an elements in our national life which are a menace to the integrity of the divinely ordained institution.

This the Alliance considers an important part of its duty to poin out, for the Alliance stands first and foremost for education and inspiation, and only secondly for law enforcement.

In the first place we are passing through a period of profoun mental unrest and attempt at readjustment in our thinking.

Into the intellectual world there have been thrown in recent time certain extremely radical conceptions, and these new ideas are making much more difficult for the men of to-day than it was for their fathers a solve the problems of life and conduct. This is especially true of problem which have to do with the conduct of the religious life.

Opinion as to right Sunday conduct and occupation has been materially modified of recent years with a marked tendency in the direction of a more liberal interpretation of the use of the Sabbath that which characterized our fathers.

This movement toward greater laxity in the Christian observant of the Sabbath, due to changed ways of thinking, has been furthered be the very rapid increase in material wealth which has come to Canadian during the recent past largely through the exploitation of the marvellous

natural resources of our land and the consequent rapid advance in naterial values.

"The world is too much with us. Late and soon, Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers."

With the days of the week given up to a feverish quest for material vealth and a hectic devotion to social duties, Sunday has become more nd more a day for sensuous pleasure and recreation. This has not only neant the deadening of the religious sensibilities of the people so employing the hours of the Sabbath, and the blinding of the eyes of children and outh to heavenly visions, but has also involved, and threatens to more reatly involve, Sunday labor on the part of those who must contribute these recreations.

The vaster part of our Sunday pleasure costs some one his Sunday est and more and more people are being involved in situations so created. If we will not use Sunday for our worship, we shall be finding presently at forces that we have ourselves released will not let us use it even for ur pleasure.

The third element in our national life which constitutes a menace of the integrity of the Sabbath in its generic function as a day of rest is negreat tide of immigration which has inundated our land during the set decade. It was stated on the best authority a few months ago in he "University Magazine" that "every third or fourth man in Canada as come to this country within the past ten years, and every seventeenth an within the past twelve months."

The problems involved in the effort to assimilate this great mass of reign material are so great and so intricate as to cause those who are lost intimate with the situation to look to the future with doubt and exiety, and to hail with relief the fact that the tide of immigration is obing rapidly at present.

Many of these people come from the United States, and from those nds from which our fathers came. These rapidly adapt themselves to ur Canadian customs. But many bring to us ethnic customs that are of only alien, but are in some cases hostile to certain high and holy bits of conduct acquired at great pains by those who have gone before. Western Canada especially, and to a great extent in Canada as a whole, olations of the Lord's Day Act, in so far as Sunday trading is concerned, e due to obstinate attempts on the part of foreigners, chiefly from the uthern parts of Europe, to carry on a seven days' business.

In view of these elements in our national life hostile to the integrity the Sabbath, the first intellectual, the second and third material, and e third national as well, it would seem to be the paramount duty of the rd's Day Alliance to speak urgently, wisely, inspiringly upon this estion. This your Secretary has attempted to do and not without atifying evidences of success.

In the interests of economy I shall, this year, combine the reports the two provinces in one, and shall make the same as brief as possible. I shall first discuss the general aspects of the work and then take up some of the more important details of the past year.

CAMPAIGN WORK

The year has been one of almost constant activity. The months of January to April were spent in British Columbia, chiefly in the coast cities and Vancouver Island. Parts of September, October and November were also devoted to British Columbia. I regret that I was obliged to curtail the latter part of my itinerary in British Columbia last fall owing to a peremptory call home. The rest of the year was given to Alberta.

Special attention has been given to a more complete organization of local branches, careful study of local conditions, interviews with city officials and the editors of newspapers. Every opportunity of addressing religious gatherings—district meetings, synods, presbyteries, conferences, has been taken advantage of. I wish to express my appreciation of the splendid service rendered by many of the officers of local branches, including the ministers of all denominations, and the uniform courtesy on the part of the delegates to religious gatherings. In some cases at these meetings a considerable period of time was devoted to a discussion of matters of Sunday observance, and a better understanding of the aims of the Alliance and the difficulties of the work was obtained. The questions asked, the criticisms and suggestions offered, and the interest manifested in these gatherings were of great value and indicated that the importance of the Alliance work is being increasingly recognized.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INTERVIEWS

A very large part of the success of the Alliance is due to correspondence and interviews with persons and companies against whom complaint has been laid. Someone has found fault with moral reformers because the first thing they do is to "whistle for a policeman." The whole history of the Alliance is an endeavor to make this the very last resort in protecting the Sabbath. Numerous instances could be reported from the experience of the past year in which we have been able to prevent the recurrence of Sabbath desecration by a kindly letter of information and warning. This policy has been especially effective in dealing with infractions of the Lord's Day Act in the country districts of Alberta. Very much has also been accomplished in both Provinces through interviews by the Secretary, and in Alberta by the Agent of the Attorney General also. Ministers and others throughout the west can confer a favor on the Alliance and greatly assist its work by reporting promptly and definitely cases of violation of the Act.

Under this head it may be well to speak of the attitude and assistance of the Attornies General. This is an important factor in bringing about Sunday observance, not only because the Lord's Day Act requires that his permission must be obtained in each and every case before prosecution of an offender under the Act, but also because the known attitude of the Attorney General of Alberta to the enforcement of the

ct determines largely Sunday conditions, especially in the larger centres f population.

As was reported last year the Attorney General of Alberta has prointed a special officer whose duty is to deal with cases coming under he Lord's Day Act. This officer has done good work during the past ear, investigating cases reported to him by the Alliance, dealing with ome by personal interview and with others by bringing the offenders to he courts. The chief criticism I have to offer to the Department in Iberta is what seems unnecessary delay in the issuing of flats for proscution on information furnished by the police. On the whole, however, am glad to be able to speak appreciatively of the assistance rendered to ur work by the Attorney General of Alberta and of his unvarying ourtesy.

I reported last year the action of the Government of Alberta in pasing legislation re Moving Picture Shows, making Sunday closing the ondition on which licenses are granted. The Attorney General of British olumbia introduced similar legislation this year, and this has been rictly enforced. Recently, when the Alliance had reported that a senior onstable in one of the unorganized districts of the province had permited a moving picture show to run on the Lord's Day because, as he said, he local people wanted it, that officer was promptly dismissed. The attorney General of this province has dealt promptly and satisfactorily ith all cases we have submitted to him touching unorganized territory, and has recently, at our request, sent out a general instruction to all rovincial Constables that infractions of the Act must be reported at noce to the Department for action. I shall be glad if local officers of the Iliance will see that these instructions are carried out by the local olice.

While the Attorney General of British Columbia has refused to oerce the Police Commissioners of cities and towns where the Act has een disregarded, chiefly by fruit and tobacco dealers, he has strongly appressed his views of the question both to these officials and to ourelyes, and has clearly stated that it is the desire of the Government that he Act shall be observed throughout the Province. In some cases the ffices of the Attorney General have been effective in bringing about etter conditions in cities and towns, as for instance quashing the movement for open pool rooms on Sunday in Prince Rupert, the closing of ool rooms and tobacco shops in Fernie, etc.

It is the policy of the Alliance not to seek the aid of the Government until we have failed to reach the end desired by correspondence or iterview. The majority of cases, therefore, we do not refer to the ttorney General. In some cities and towns of British Columbia there is such yet to be desired in the way of enforcement of the Act with regard Sunday trading, and the case is aggravated by the fact that most of his Sunday business is carried on by aliens, chiefly Greeks and Orientals. he Alliance has taken the ground that as the majority of the Police ommissioners are appointed by the Government, it should be insisted

that candidates are favorable to the enforcement of the Act. We are hope that the Government will look at the matter in this way, and the future satisfactory appointments will be made.

I desire to give expression of my appreciation of the services of Attorney General of Alberta and British Columbia, of their courtesy appromptness in dealing with cases we have submitted to them, the evident sympathy with the aims of the Alliance, and desire to give Alliance practical support. They have not done everything we hasked them to do—perhaps we have asked too much sometimes. each year shows a greater readiness to see the point of view of Alliance and brings some new concession. I may instance just two stances of this; one the statement of the Attorney General of Alberta year that Sunday threshing would be promptly prosecuted; and other that of the Attorney General of British Columbia that wh druggists were evidently catering for business on Sunday other than legitimate sale of drugs and medicines, he would support prosecution.

FARM WORK

Cases on infraction of the Act in country districts in Alberta h been considerably fewer this year than in the past. This is no doubt to the educational policy the Alliance has been carrying out in the years, and the rapid assimilation by strangers of the law-abiding dencies of Canadians in the West. There have been a few reports of cutting and threshing of grain, and these have been reported to Attorney General for his action. Some districts where we had consider able trouble a few years ago report that there have been no cases on necessary work on Sunday this year flagrant enough to attract pu notice. Fruit packing, while it is done in towns and cities, affects country districts, and has been a source of difficulty in some parts British Columbia. The question is a vexed one, and must be sett The whole matter would seem to be in the hands of the packing compar which can so arrange that no soft fruits are delivered after noon on Sa day. I desire to thank the Kelowna Growers Exchange for their eff to deal with this question last summer. The Alliance will see that act is taken against packers who violate the law in the future.

RAILWAYS

Generally, the railways of both Provinces are measuring up to requirements of the Act. There are occurring occasionally cases infraction of the law on the part of freight and construction tra Reports of this come most frequently from Vancouver Island and Okanagan Valley. In one or two cases where excursion trains we proposed the action of the Alliance was successful in preventing carrying out of the proposal. Serious complaints that the Pacific Great Eastern Railway contractors were carrying on extensive constition work on Sundays had to be referred to the Attorney Gene Promise was given that in the future work would be kept within requirements of the Act. Repeated complaints came to us to the efficiency of the Act.

at the Kettle Valley Railway was continually violating the Act by nstruction work on buildings, running track laying machines, etc. ery case the truth of these complaints was denied by the secretary of e Company. In Alberta and British Columbia the Canadian Pacific ilway has closed all depot stands on Sundays, and has forbidden the le of newspapers by news agents on station platforms. ported guilty of this will be dismissed. Officers of the local branches the Alliance can afford assistance by reporting promptly and in detail cases where the railways seem to be disregarding the Act. titude of all the great railway companies in the two Provinces, as ted to the Alliance by their general officers, is favorable to the keepof the law regarding Sunday traffic, not only because they desire to law-abiding, but because they recognize that one day's rest in seven is e condition of that physical efficiency that is needful for successful ork. Instances where this does not seem to be true are due, usually, to e action of some subordinate official, and should be reported to the lliance.

SUNDAY TRADING

This form of infraction of the Act leads all others in the number of e cases and the persistency of those guilty of the same. In Alberta a ge petition was presented to the Attorney General requesting him to vithdraw the embargo on Sunday selling as far as fruit. confectionery, cream and soft drinks are concerned, as we feel that the restriction on e sale of these articles is a hardship on us, the general public." is petition was circulated by the retail confectioners, and the general iblic, who are said to be the petitioners had nothing to do with initiatg the same. The Alliance prepared a Memorandum on the question and nt this to all ministers and officers of the Alliance in Alberta asking em to have resolutions and letters sent to the Attorney General. liance also interviewed the Attorney General on the matter. The tition was, of course, not granted, the Attorney General pointing out the petitioners that the Lord's Day Act is a Federal law which it is his siness not to alter but to see enforced. The Confectioners did not exct any other reply, but hoped to demonstrate to the Government that ere was a very widely extended desire on the part of the citizens of Alrta for a more open Sunday. That this is not the case would be clearly en by an examination of the signatures on the petition with which we lieve the more influential citizens would have nothing to do, and which number of towns refused to circulate. If further evidence is needed it is given when last May, at a great mass meeting of citizens in one of e theatres in Edmonton, a proposal for a more open Sunday was deated by an overwhelming majority. In the cities and towns of Alberta inday trading has decreased greatly since my last report, but there are ll some old offenders who take chances and pay their fines when procuted. A little more vigilance would easily close these places.

In British Columbia, Victoria has gone back on its good record of 13. The action of the Police Commissioners of that city in permitting

Th the cigar and fruit stores to open again is serious and indefensible. Attorney General exerted his influence for law enforcement, but appar ently without effect. The plea the Commissioners made was that th Attorney General would not assist them in closing the hotel stands o Sundays, and they were not prepared to do anything till all offender were treated alike. Thus the matter stands at present awaiting the ap pointment of Commissioners for 1915. Nelson also took action last vea and closed the stores on Sundays, but there has been a relapse. In Van couver there is still considerable Sunday trading all over the city General business is, of course, suppressed, but many fruit and tobaco stores, shoe shine places and news stands are allowed to keep open. The Alliance waited upon the Commissioners in the spring and requested th full enforcement of the Act in the city. The interview was not a ver satisfactory one, it being found difficult for the Mayor and the Allian to get the same point of view. Assurance was given, however, that the situation would be dealt with as far as was deemed practical, and there evidence that the interview was not without good effect. The May reported to the Alliance a month after the interview that fifty-eight case had been disposed of and that ten others were pending. This is als evidence that there was considerable reason for the complaint of the Alliance.

In Sonth Vancouver a vexatious case occurred last winte Contrary to the advice of the Alliance the Municipality, under the provisions of the Municipality Clauses Act, passed a by-law governin Sunday trading. The by-law was, of course, ultra vires; and an appearance very properly taken in a case in which a magistrate had fined person for selling bread on Sunday, which conviction had been quashe by the Chief Justice. The Court of Appeal upheld the decision of the Chief Justice, and it was clearly stated that the "Province has no power to authorize the municipality to pass the by-law under which this conviction was made."

MISCELLANEOUS

Out of a large number of miscellaneous cases a few may be selecte for examples. In Edmonton, in 1913, considerable construction was reported as having been done on the Sunday previous to the opening of the Annual Fair. The matter was taken up with the Directors and promise was received that this would not occur in the future. In spite of this promise the offence was repeated this year, and this is acknowledge by the Directors. The excuse is given that some lumber was late it arriving, and the Sunday work was necessary so as to be ready for opening. It is difficult to see how this excuse is valid, and the Alliane will be forced to request the police to watch the situation next time an take action if necessary.

A complaint with reference to alleged Sunday work by the employes of the B.C. Telephone Company was referred to that compan and brought the very satisfactory reply that every operator has one day

rest in seven, as the Act requires, and that those who are on duty Sundays have only five hours' work. Complaints against the Britaunia Mining and Smelting Company and the Imperial Oil Company that construction work was done on Sundays were also referred to the companies concerned and in each case the Alliance was promised that there would be no further cause for complaint. Reports that the Canada Western umber Mills carried on work on Sundays were promptly denied by the company, and it was stated that no unnecessary work is done on Sundays, the mill does not run on that day, nor is any lumber shipped.

The War has brought its problems to the Alliance as to people and nstitutions generally. In many places Sunday Concerts have been held with the understanding that the proceeds would be devoted to patriotic surposes. It would seem that no particular offence could be taken to this f the performers gave their services gratuitously, but this has not always roved to be the case, and the city of Vancouver, after investigating the natter and finding that after expenses were paid little if anything was orthcoming for charitable purposes, forbad further Sunday patriotic oncerts. Some newspapers at the beginning of the war published Sunday The General Secretary published a memorandum on the uestion pointing out that while in the interest of public intelligence in ime of war it might be justifiable to publish special war bulletins, this vas no reason for the publication of the full edition of Saturday's paper with a little additional news on the front page. The Action of the Alliance n this was timely and eminently successful. Sunday contract work on roods wanted immediately by the war department has also constituted a roblem for the Alliance. The Alliance recognizes that there are things which must be brought under the head of necessity and mercy in time of var, that otherwise would not be so included, but takes the ground that he Attorney General may not grant permission to perform work contrary o the Act, but may, of course, use his discretion as to the granting of fiats or prosecution, but that even then the specific case should be clearly beore him.

It will be seen from the above brief summary of the work of the past year that the Alliance had been vigilant and prompt to deal with all infractions of the Act that have been brought to its notice. If those who lesire a better Sunday will report to the Secretary all cases of seeming riolation of the Lord's Day Act, he will do all in his power to deal with he matter. We cannot promise that in all cases the persons guilty will be brought to justice. It is not the business of the Alliance to prosecute iffenders under the Act but to see that the officers of the law do their luty in this regard. That this is not always possible is evident from the bove report.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

In the matter of the religious observance of the Sabbath the followng resolution, moved by the Very Rev. Dean Doull and seconded by the Rev. W. L. Clay, D.D., was passed by the British Columbia Annua Meeting:

Inasmuch as the activities of the Lord's Day Alliance are necessarily limited to the preservation of the Lord's Day as a day of rest, and

Inasmuch as both the Bible and history, as well as the necessities of human nature require its general observance as a day of worship, and

Inasmuch as there is already observed a tendency to use the day, by law secured as a day of rest, for purposes of amusement, to the neglect of the higher duties of worship;

Therefor this British Columbia Lord's Day Alliance in annuameeting assembled earnestly commends to all churches and minister within this Province the important service which they may render to the material and spiritual well being of the nation by repeatedly emphasizing those principals upon which rests the religious observance of the day."

FINANCIAL

The reports of the Provincial Treasurers are given below. It wibe seen that in both Provinces we have fallen considerably below the amount expected. This is in a large measure due to the failure of two cities, Vancouver and Calgary, to come up to the amount asked for. If the second column of the report will be seen the amounts asked for from the Branches for the next year. It is earnestly hoped that all who are interested in the preservation of the Sabbath will come to the assistant of the Alliance at this time of financial depression.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

CHARLES H. HUESTIS,

Red Deer, November 1914.

Secretary.

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED:

- 1. That the officers of local branches and all who wish the bettenforcement of the Lord's Day Act be requested to report immediate all offences coming under their notice to the Secretary, Red Deer, Alta.
- 2. That we request the recognition of Lord's Day Week as far possible, as follows:
 - (1) That special sermons be preached upon either the first or second Sunday.
 - (2) That Sabbath Schools in the programme for the day should give place to some aspect of Sabbath observance, and that an offering be taken for Alliance work.
 - (3) That Young People's Societies and the Assemblies at the midweek prayer-meetings should give the subject special consideration.

It is further recommended the following amounts be aimed at the contribution for the year 1914-15:—Alberta, \$3,500; British Columbi

\$3,000; and that these amounts be divided among the branches as indicated in the Treasurer's report below.

These reports were received and adopted at the Annual Meetings.

D. G. McQUEEN, President, Alberta.

G. G. WEBBER, Secretary, Alberta.

W. LESLIE CLAY, President, B.C.

O. M. SANFORD, Secretary, B.C.

ALBERTA

Treasurer's Report From November 1st, 1913, to October 31st, 1914.

Name of Bran	ah		Amount Received	Expected 1915
				1919
Balance last	_		\$763.83	@10.00
Airdrie	• • • • •	• • • • •		\$10.00
Aldersyde			41.00	10.00
Bawlf	• • • • •	*****	11.20	10.00
Bassano	- • • • • •			10.00
Blairmore	• • • • • •			10.00
Blackfalds				15.00
Bellevue			11.00	10.00
Carstairs			4.95	10.00
Castor			19.50	20,00
Camrose			6.00	30,00
Cayley			15.00	15.00
Carmangay				10.00
Claresholm			44.50	40.00
Coleman			19.00	20.00
Crossfield			31.40	25.00
Coronation			27.30	25.00
Clive				10.00
Calgary			402.00	1000.00
Daysland			15.75	25.00
Didsbury			28.20	30.00
Edmonton			1202.50	1000.00
Fort Saskate	hewan		46.00	25.00
Granuin				10.00
Hardisty			9.00	10.00
High River			23.45	50.00
Innisfail			6.00	10.00
Irma			4.50	15.00
Lacombe			19.90	35.00
Leduc			10.00	15.00
Lethbridge			82.60	125.00
Langdon			02,00	10.00
***************************************				10.00

				Expected
Name of Branch			Amount Received	1915
Millet			6.00	10.00
Medicine Hat			80.95	150.00
Macleod			10.00	40.00
Magrath				10.00
Nanton			7.75	25,00
Okotoks			25.50	25.00
Olds			18.00	25.00
Pincher Creek				25.00
Ponoka			3.25	20.00
Red Deer			119.25	150.00
Red Deer Dist	rict		15.45	25.00
Stettler			19.00	25.00
Sedgewick			8.00	15.00
Staveley			5.00	10.00
Taber			4.00	25.00
Tofield			16.00	25,00
Throne			9.50	10.00
Strathmore				10.00
Vegreville			49.60	30.00
Vermilion			28.75	30.00
Viking			15.00	15.00
Vulcan				10.00
Veteran			5.15	10.00
Wainwright			19.05	20.00
Wetaskiwin			36.50	50.00
Sunday Schoo	ls, not in	cluded in ab	ove :-	
Islay			1.00	
Hayter			2.00	
Raven			1.00	
Kirkwel	1		3.00	
Purple Springs			6.75	
Tristram			3.75	
Creekford			1.50	
Willowd	lale		1.75	
			3,326.03	3,500.00

The net amount, \$2,562.20, has been sent to the General Treasurer in Toronto. Edmonton, November 11th, 1914.

L. J. PORTER, Treasurer.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Treasurer's Report From November 1st, 1913, to October 31st, 1914.

Name of Branch		Amount Received	Expected 1915
A !		Amount Received	\$ 25 00
4 11 .	• • • • •		10 00
Armstrong		\$ 14 30	20 00
O1 1.		$\frac{3}{23} \frac{14}{25} \frac{30}{25}$	20 00
0 1 1 1		43 10	30 00
Courtenay		10 10	25 00
Cranbrook		$\frac{10}{27} \frac{10}{50}$	40 00
Chilliwack		56 70	50 00
Creston		2 00	10 00
Duncan		18 60	20 00
Enderby		7 10	10 00
Fernie		23 00	25 00
Grand Forks		9 00	30 00
Greenwood		5 00	15 00
Golden			25 00
		5 60	50 00
Kamloops		76 50	75 00
Kaslo		10 00	20 00
Ladner		5 30	25 00
		9 50	5 00
Midway		11 25	15 00
Mission City Nanaimo		53 50	
Nelson	• • • • • •	28 00	60 00
New Westminster		95 10	60 00 150 00
Phoenix	• • •	99 10	
Penticton		44.00	10 00
		44 60	50 00
Revelstoke		29 75	$ \begin{array}{r} 50 \ 00 \\ 25 \ 00 \end{array} $
Rossland			
Sidney			$\frac{10}{25} \frac{00}{00}$
Salmon Arm		9.00	00
Summerland		2 00	15 00
Steveston		7.10	30 00
Strawberry Vale		$\begin{array}{c} 7 & 10 \\ 58 & 75 \end{array}$	10 00
Vernon Victoria			60 00
		501 75	600 00
Vancouver		536-35	1300 00
Sunday Schools, not i	ncluded in a	hove :	
East Burnaby	normaca m	1 00	
Eburne		1 00	
White Rock		1 50	
Ball River		$\frac{1}{2} \frac{00}{00}$	
Crosby Girls' Ho	me	$\frac{2}{2} \frac{00}{00}$	
Fort Steele		$\tilde{1}$ $\tilde{4}\tilde{5}$	
Rosedale		2 00	
		\$ 1710 55	\$ 3000 00

The above amount, \$1710.55, has been forwarded to the General Treasurer in Toronto. Victoria, November 5th, 1914.

JOHN S. BAIN, Treasurer.



